

This was sent
in a letter, from
B^y of London,
Lower House
25. Jan. 1701
of their Sitting

The most *Proper* and *Effectual*
EXPEDIENT
To Secure this Nation against all Coun-
sels and Attempts of any
Papal Faction for the Future.

TO make use of *Indirect Means* for the attaining of any End, tho' never so Good, when there are *Proper and Effectual Means* to be used, is very Imprudent and Inexcusable. The Means, which have hitherto been used for this purpose, might easily be demonstrated to have been very indirect, unnatural, unreasonable, and unjustifiable: But the Proposal of such as are Easy, Natural, Necessary and Effectual, will make that Needless. And such in short, is the *Restoring of the Primitive Catholick Christianity*, and the *Christian Rights of Christ's Church* in this Nation; and the total *Abolishing the Papal Usurpations*: Nether of which hath yet been done: but the Nation been abused by a *Mistaken Nominal Reformation*, (as it is truly call'd by one far enough from Popery) and the *Continuance of those Usurpations* in other hands, with the greatest of all *Sacrilege*, and great *Impiety*, by the State.

This may be done by a short Act of Parliament, 1. *Enacting*:

1. The *Election of Bishops* to be by the Bishops of the Province and the Clergy of the respective Diocesses; of the *Deans and Prebends*, by the Bishop and Chapter, and the Clergy of the City, and of the *Arch-Deacons* by the Bishop and Clergy of the respective Arch-deaconries.
2. *Synods* to be Summon'd and Held according to Antient Canons.
3. The *Offices of the Church* to be Rectified and Order'd by Synods, according to the most Antient Forms.

4. The

4. The *Discipline* to be exercised according to Antient Canons, with Spiritual Censures only.

5. The First Fruits and Tenths to be released and discharged. They were mere Papal Usurpations at first; and the Continuance of the Usurpation by the State is Sacrilege and Impiety.

2. *Repealing* all those Acts of Parliament, whereby any of the Usurpations, whether Papal or Parliamentary, have been transferr'd, introduc'd or constituted.

This is not only Easy and Natural, but Necessary and Effectual. Necessary by the Laws of God, by the Laws of the Land, the most solemn Law of *Magna Charta*, and the Coronation Oath.

I call these *Christian Rights*, because of Divine Original, by the Institution of Christ; and not only Rights but Duties; and such Rights as the Duties cannot be perform'd without them: and Duties wherein God is to be obeyed rather than Man: Rights, which not only the *Clergy*, but all *Christians* ought to Assert and Maintain with the hazard of their Lives, unless they will run a greater Hazard, of their Souls; which cannot be deserted without *Apostacy* in part from the Integrity of Christianity, and great *Scandal* to it; especially by *Clergymen*, who are more especially oblig'd to Assert them, and have more special Occasion for it; and which they cannot neglect without Unfaithfulness to God, and Betraying the Souls of Men; of Princes and States to great Sin, and the People to the Judgments of God for it; Betraying the One intire Kingdom of Christ to Subjection to the many Kingdoms of this World, to be distracted and pull'd to pieces by them: And Rights as highly Necessary to be restor'd as possible, even by the *Laws of this Nation*; that *Fundamental Principle of the Common Law*, That all Acts in any thing contrary to Christianity are so far void; that Famous Law of *Magna Charta*, establish'd with the Greatest Solemnity of any Human Law; and most dreadful Imprecations upon the Violators of it; and the Antient and Usual *Coronation-Oath*, whereby the Kings are sworn to maintain the Rights and Liberties of the Church. Lastly, they are such Rights as the Presbyterians, neither of Scotland nor of England, will easily give up.

Nor is it less Necessary to remove the *Curse*, which seems to have cleav'd to the Violators of it; in the Destruction of that Race of Kings, who so notoriously introduc'd and establish'd the Usurpations; and almost of another, which only continued them; and in a continual Succession of Worldly, Temporizing Flatterers of Princes, who

who being Unfaithful to their proper Lord and Sovereign, are not like generally to continue Faithful to them much farther than their own Reputation or Interest move them.

The rest of the *Primitive Catholick Christianity* is as necessary to be restored as this, but of larger extent than can with so much brevity be demonstrated to be so. But a great Part of it is already confess'd and asserted by Principal leading Men, of the several Parties of Conformists, and Nonconformists; and concerning much of the rest, there are Papers in the hands of some of the most Learned of the *present Assembly* of the Clergy, who, 'tis hop'd, will take all these Matters into Consideration in due time, if they may Sit and Act without Disturbance, as they ought to do.

If this were but done, as it ought to be done, by a free Assembly of the Clergy, it would prove no less *Effectual* than Necessary. Such a Removal of the cursed thing, if by an intire Restitution of Right both in Church and State, would be an impregnable Fortification against *Popery*. It would remove all Temptations to it; obviate all Objections for it; and enable even the Clergy to withstand all Artifices of Papal Agents with our Princes: Nay, it would fortifie our Princes against all their Pretences and Insinuations; enervate the Power of them, and give just occasion to all Considerate Roman Catholicks to become Catholicks indeed, and capable of as much Indulgence as any Dissenting Party in the Nation.

In Summ, it would have this happy Effect, that it would leave nothing in difference between the English and the Papal Party, but what would be easily Justifiable on the Part of the English, and indefensible on the other side; whereas at present late Experience hath prov'd that that there are divers things on the Part of the English, and things of great Importance, so utterly Indefensible, that the Principal Persons of the Party have been put to very indirect Means to support their Cause and suppress the Truth.

But this, by the Blessing of God, might be an Excellent Means to prevent Wars abroad, and Cure our Dissentions at home, most Honourable for King *William*, Honourable for the Parliament and Nation, and most Grateful to all Good and Wise Men.

Πας ὁ δυνάμεις λεγειν τὸ ἀληθές, καὶ μὴ λεγων, κρινησεται ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ.
Justin. Dial. cum Tryph. p. 308.

who being indebted to their proper Lord and Sovereign, are not
 like generally to continue faithful to them much farther than their
 own Reputation or Interest move them.

The rest of the Privileged Catholic Community is as necessary to
 be restored as this, but of a different kind, and with much pre-
 vious demand, and to be so. For a great Part of it is already
 divided and affected by Political leading Men, of the several Par-
 ties of Conscience, and Nonconformity; and concerning much of
 the rest, there are Papers in the hands of some of the most learn-
 ed of the present Assembly of the Clergy, who, if they will take
 all their Matters in a Consideration, they may see, that they may see
 and a without Disturbance, as they ought to do.

If this were done, as it ought to be done, by a free and
 temperate of the Clergy, it would prove no less a Blessing than necessary
 such a Removal of this cursed thing, it is an entire Restoration
 of Right both in Church and State, would be an irreparable For-
 tification against any. It would remove all Temptations to any
 kind of Opposition, for it, and enable even the Clergy to with-
 stand all Assaults of Papal Agents with our Princes; May, it
 would restore our Princes against all their Pretences and Innuen-
 ces; preserve the Power of them, and give just occasion to all
 good and Right Catholics to become Catholics indeed, and
 capable of as much Indignance as any Denying Party in the
 Nation.

In Summ, it would make this happy Effect, that it would leave no
 thing in difference between the English and the Papal Party, but
 what would be easily surmountable on the Part of the English, and
 insupportable on the other side; whereas at present late Experiences
 will prove that there are divers Things on the Part of the
 English, and things of great Importance, to utterly insupportable,
 that the Political Friends of the Party have been put to very in-
 direct Means to support their Cause, and support the Truth.

Happily, by the Blessing of God, might be an Excellent Means to
 remove all these, and our own Difficulties at home, most dis-
 tinguishable for the Honour of the Parliament and Na-
 tion, and more grateful to all good and Wholesome



This is a copy of the original, and is not a translation.
 Given, Dec. 1. 1738.